

## Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 252242Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0156

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MX

SUBJ: FELIX BARRA-GARCIA NAMED SECRETARY OF AGRARIAN REFORM

1. FELIX BARRA-GARCIA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION FOR THE REGULARIZATION OF LAND TENURE (CORETT), HAS BEEN NAMED BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AS SECRETARY OF AGRARIAN REFORM (SRA). BARRA-GARCIA REPLACES AUGUSTO GOMEZ VILLANUEVA WHO RESIGNED, PROBABLY TO BECOME SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE RULING PARTY (PRI).

2. BARRA-GARCIA WAS BORN IN CASTILLO DE TEAYO, STATE OF VERACRUZ, SEPTEMBER 26, 1934. HE ATTENDED THE NATIONAL PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND IN 1953 ENTERED THE SCHOOL OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY (UNAM) WHERE HE RECEIVED A DEGREE (LICENTIATE) IN POLITICAL SCIENCE. FROM 1961 TO 1974 HE TAUGHT COURSES IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN MEXICO. FROM 1964 TO 1970 HE WAS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PROFESSORS UNION AT UNAM; FROM 1970-72 HE WAS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ORIENTATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES AT UNAM. EARLIER HE HAD SERVED AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EMPLOYEE'S UNION AND SPOKESMAN FOR THE TEACHERS' FEDERATION, BOTH AT THE NATIONAL PREPARATORY SCHOOL.

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3. BARRA-GARCIA'S PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE HAS

BEEN IN CONNECTION WITH SRA, WHICH UNTIL JANUARY OF THIS YEAR WAS THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN AFFAIRS AND COLONIZATION. IN 1973 HE WAS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL INFORMATION AND PROGRAMMING UNIT AND ALSO DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PERSONNEL UNIT. FROM 1974 TO THE PRESENT HE WAS HEAD OF THE LAND TENURE COMMISSION, BOTH WHEN IT WAS A PART OF AGRARIAN AFFAIRS AND AFTER IT WAS CONVERTED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE INTO AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION.

4. COMMENT: ONLY YESTERDAY IT WAS RUMORED (IN EXCELSIOR'S HEADLINES) THAT THE POST WOULD BE TAKEN BY SENATE LEADER ENRIQUE OLIVARES-SANTANA. IN MEXICAN POLITICS AN INCOMING SECRETARY NORMALLY HAS THE APPROVAL OR CONSENT OF THE OUTGOING SECRETARY. IT IS THEREFORE ASSUMED THAT BARRA-GARCIA IS EITHER IDEOLOGICALLY OR PERSONALLY CLOSE TO GOMEZ-VILLANUEVA.

5. THIS IS THE FIRST OF AN EXPECTED FLURRY OF PERSONNEL CHANGES IN GOVERNMENTAL AND PARTY ADMINISTRATION. OTHER CHANGES WILL BE REPORTED AND COMMENTED ON AS THEY OCCUR.

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## Message Attributes

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